



Please note: These procedures may be revised as the situation develops.

## GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR CONTACT PREMISES

**Contact Premises:** Contact Premises have susceptible poultry that may have been exposed to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus, either directly or indirectly, including but not limited to exposure to susceptible poultry, poultry products, fomites, or people from Infected Premises.

**Tracing:** A critical activity during an HPAI outbreak is to rapidly and diligently trace-back and trace-forward movements from an Infected Premises; tracing identifies Contact Premises. This tracing aids in the control of the spread of HPAI virus and limit the impact of the outbreak. Tracing should include all movements from the premises, including susceptible poultry and livestock, non-susceptible livestock, animal products, vehicles, crops/grains, and people (all potential fomites). Tracing will also include consideration of all potential modes of transmission and possible contact with wildlife.

**Tracing Period:** Typically, trace-back and trace-forward information is collected from the Infected Premises for the past 21-days.

**Priority of Tracing:** When resources or personnel are limited in a widespread outbreak, movements considered high-risk by Incident Command should be traced first, so that action can be rapidly taken to control and contain the spread of HPAI. If tracing information is provided for 21-days, more recent trace-forwards (e.g., those within 1-2 incubation periods of the currently circulating virus) involving hatching eggs, hatchlings, or live poultry are typically the first priority.

**Depopulation:** In the event that Contact Premises are identified from tracing, depopulation of poultry on Contact Premises, or poultry meeting the suspect case definition, may also be authorized by USDA APHIS officials—in coordination with State and Tribal officials and Incident Command—depending on epidemiological information and outbreak characteristics.

**Indemnity:** If USDA APHIS officials—in coordination with State and Tribal officials and Incident Command—agree that Contact Premises need to be depopulated, USDA APHIS will provide indemnity for depopulated poultry as funds are available.

**Captive Wild Birds (i.e. raptors or certified endangered species):** USDA APHIS does not depopulate captive wild birds (i.e. raptors or certified endangered species). In the event captive wild birds or certified endangered species are on a Contact Premises, State Animal Health Officials, APHIS officials, and appropriate wildlife officials will be consulted.

## OVERVIEW OF STEPS FOR TRACING & IDENTIFYING CONTACT PREMISES

1. State Animal Health Officials and APHIS officials contacts all facilities with traces from the Infected Premises.
2. A State quarantine or hold order is placed on each facility with poultry, hatchlings, or hatching eggs from the Infected Premises.

- i. Under certain circumstances, a State quarantine or hold order may also be placed on Contact Premises that received items or products determined to be high-risk movements by the Incident Command.
3. All information required for indemnity is collected (e.g., census and inventory) on the Contact Premises in the event the flock is depopulated.
4. Epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises is completed.
5. USDA APHIS, State/Tribal officials, and Incident Command agree on the disposition of the Contact Premises. Depending on epidemiological information, outbreak characteristics, proactive risk-assessments, premises characteristics (including type and species of birds), or other information available, the Contact Premises may be:
  - i. Depopulated in full.
  - ii. Poultry and hatching eggs from the Infected Premises are depopulated; all other poultry remains under State quarantine and tested based on surveillance guidance to demonstrate freedom from infection (minimum testing every other day for 14 days, see *Option 2* below).
  - iii. Released from quarantine or hold order if further investigation and testing indicates premises does not fit the definition of a Contact Premises.

## SPECIFIC CONTACT PREMISES SCENARIOS

### Hatching Eggs and Hatchlings Traced From Infected Premises

1. Identify location of all hatching eggs and hatchlings from Infected Premises.
2. If Infected Premises sends hatching eggs to more than one hatchery, the risk of each hatchery will be evaluated independently.
3. USDA APHIS, State/Tribal officials, and Incident Command assess the HPAI infection-risk of the hatching eggs or hatchlings and determine disposition.
  - i. A science and risk-based approach will be used to determine risk.
  - ii. A primary component of this assessment will be when these were moved from an Infected Premises (i.e., 2 days ago or 15 days ago), given the known incubation period of the HPAI virus.
4. Recommended disposition is to:
  - i. Isolate and depopulate hatching eggs traced from the Infected Premises and any direct in-contact eggs (i.e., same incubator) on the Contact Premises. Eggs may be in a holding area (prior to moving to an incubator), or in an incubator.
  - ii. Isolate and depopulate hatchlings from the Infected Premises, and any direct in-contact hatchlings (i.e., in shared holding area) on the Contact Premises.
5. If these measures and the epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises is completed with no detection of HPAI, then Contact Premises status (and quarantine) is released.

### Poultry Traced From Infected Premises

#### *Option 1: Depopulation of All Poultry*

1. Isolate and depopulate poultry traced from the Infected Premises.
2. Depopulate other poultry on the Contact Premises.
3. If these measures and the epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises is completed with no detection of HPAI, then Contact Premises status (and quarantine) is released.

## *Option 2: Depopulation of All Poultry from Infected Premises with Quarantine and Surveillance of All Other Poultry on Premises*

1. Isolate and depopulate poultry traced from the Infected Premises.
2. Isolate and quarantine (other) poultry on the Contact Premises and conduct surveillance to determine disease status of the flock.
3. Minimum surveillance guidelines for poultry on Contact Premises is rRt-PCR testing every other day for 14 days.
4. Depending upon the size of the poultry flock, surveillance can be accomplished on daily mortality (dead bird testing) or by live bird testing.
5. State Animal Health Officials and Incident Command can use other surveillance testing schemes if they provide similar confidence level in terms of HPAI detection.
6. If upon completion of the epidemiological investigation and surveillance testing of the Contact Premises, and HPAI infection has not been detected, then the Contact Premises status (and quarantine) is released.

### **Feed Mill on Contact Premises**

1. In the event that there is a feed mill on a Contact Premises:
  - i. Feed trucks and other potential fomites (e.g., people and other equipment) moving on and off the premises will require strict biosecurity measures.
  - ii. This may include intensified cleaning and disinfection measures as specified by Incident Command.
  - iii. If the premises is a hatchery, feed movement may be restricted until the depopulation of hatching eggs or hatchlings is completed (State officials/Incident Command will provide guidance).
  - iv. If premises is part of a larger production system, feed movement may be restricted to premises (or specific premises) until the epidemiological investigation of the Contact Premises has been completed (State officials/Incident Command will provide guidance).
2. In the event the Contact Premises becomes an Infected Premises, the State Animal Health Officials and Incident Command will work together to determine the disposition of the feed on the premises.

### **GENERAL SURVEILLANCE GUIDANCE FOR CONTACT PREMISES**

- ◆ If there are more than 50 dead birds per house or farm, then collect 5-bird or 11-bird pool(s) from each multiple of 50 or less dead or euthanized sick birds, every other day for 14 days.
  - The 11-bird pool is an additional sampling option, it will not be appropriate for backyard premises and other premises with small poultry flocks.
- ◆ For flocks where there are no dead birds to sample, then sample live birds.

### **Example Surveillance Scheme**

- ◆ The following example surveillance scheme is for live birds from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for the 2014–2015 HPAI Response.
- ◆ Collect swab samples from birds in each house on each premises every other day, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for 8 sample days, over a 17 day period.
- ◆ Collect the number of birds as listed in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Guidance on Number of Samples

Number of birds on each premises or house	Minimum number of birds to be sampled
10 or less	Sample all
20	15
30	15
40	15
50 or greater	20

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For additional information on HPAI epidemiology, tracing, and surveillance please see the following:

- ◆ USDA APHIS FAD PReP Website ([www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep)):
  - USDA APHIS HPAI Response Plan: The Red Book
  - HPAI Epidemiological Investigation and Tracing SOP
  - HPAI Surveillance SOP
- ◆ [Emergency Management Response System \(EMRS\)](#).